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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 040894-7418

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	Confirmation No. 2394
)	
Hiroshi SATO)	
)	
Application No.: 10/571,070)	Group Art Unit: 3673
)	
Filed: March 8, 2006)	Examiner: [Not Assigned]
)	
For: CONNECTED STAPLE)	

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the document listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application. Accordingly, Applicant does not believe that a fee is due for filing this paper.

The document included in this IDS was first cited in a Japanese Office Action dated March 11, 2008. A copy of the Japanese Office Action and English translation is enclosed. Two documents cited by the Japanese Office (JP-A-10-009235 and JP-A-7-165256) previously were cited in this case and thus are not included here.

Applicants request that the Examiner consider the listed document and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO Form 1449. The following document is listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and is in a language other than English:

- 1) JP-08-199123- The relevance of this document may be understood by the English

abstract, the figures therein and the discussion in the Japanese Office Action.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitutes "Prior Art." If it should be determined that the listed document does not constitute "Prior Art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

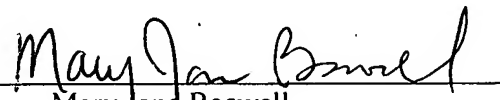
Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Dated: June 3, 2008

CUSTOMER NO.: 009629

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